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1945-07-07 Alfred P. Maurice Letter to Dolores Robson

Alfred P. Maurice, 1921-

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Saturday 7 July 1945
14 OA Command
APO #75, Fresno.

(67)

Bunny Darling,

I am hot, and tired, and discouraged. The heat here is even worse than it was at Finckh and I suffer very much from it. Ah me! The trials and tribulations of the tropics. I'm tired because I didn't get to bed until late last night and had to get up as early as usual to eat; it was worth it because for the third straight morning, we had fried eggs. They taste wonderful. Again we had two of them. I hope we don't go back to the type of food we were getting at Finckh now.

It seems good to get three good meals a day instead of only one, and then we were never sure of that one. I have some rough sketches made for this new project I'm working on but there isn't much more I can do ~~until~~ until I am able to get these approved and I'm having a hard time trying to get hold of the officer since he has been in conference all day. Ah well! If I don't get him today, I'll get him tomorrow.

This evening shall be a nice quiet one. I just intend to go to the show and after that get to bed early. Since tomorrow is Sunday, I'll be able to sleep late too. That will make it OK all around.

This woman's mail brought me four letters; One from Bob Kennedy, one from Mom, and two from you. It was nice to get some mail again Honey. What is all this gadding about that you're doing though. It seems that you're out all hours of the night visiting friends. Don't you ever take a night off to read—and write. You had better take it easy and get your sleep or you will be acquiring some first class circles under your eyes. You mustn't let that happen you know. I want you to take good care of yourself for me Honey.

By the way Miss Robson, do they now count by twos where you come from. You have been confusing me no end by numbering your letters out of order. For instance, these two letters I received today were numbered 80 and 82 and yet they

Please excuse the sudden change from pen to typing but the fellow who owns the pen I was using had to leave and I thought I would finish this by typing - were consecutive letters. I notice that you have done this quite often lately. Hmm! Trying to keep ahead of me in letters written that way are you. Tont Tont! Your letters are still wonderful though even if I am occasionally puzzled by the discrepancy between the date of the letter and the number on it. You are forgiven Honey. Try to keep it straight though won't you because it is confusing.

I tried to get Casey in his barracks the other night but I didn't have much luck so I left word for him to call up here so we could get together. He called yesterday and I asked if it would be possible for us to get together today Sunday. At this, he nodded and hawed and said that he would be down here Monday night he didn't say anything about Sunday so I asked him if he had a date, this query was followed by a profound silence so I asked him if she was white, he then told me that he had met a little Filipino gal that he had a date with. Good old Casey. I think that he showed rare good judgment in taking a Filipino girl instead of a WAC because these Wacs are a sad looking lot indeed. I'll have to kid him about his new girl friend when he comes up tomorrow. He is a darned nice fellow. I think that Paul Katona is in the same outfit that Casey is in. I will have to check on that. I would like to see Paul again. I have tried to get Mac several times but have had no luck at all. If I can make the right connection I find that the line there is busy or out of order. Most of the time though I can't get the call through at all. I guess I will just have to write him a letter so that he will know that I am here. There are quite a few people that I do know here.

That ~~some~~ sounded like a very good offer you had to go to the U of Michigan and do graduate work and get paid for it while you studied but if you don't think that is the kind of work you want to do why there is no sense in taking the job. I admit that I think that it would be a good deal if you were going to have a few years to while away after you finished but in our case you would only be doing that kind of work for a short time and then we would be getting married as soon as I got home and you wouldn't want to stay on that job. They would undoubtedly want you to agree to stay on the job for a certain length of time and that would not be good. I don't want anyone else to have any claims on you when I get back not even the government. Just what kind of work are you going to get anyway? Have you gotten any prospects yet? Let me know how you make out. I don't have to worry about what kind of job I am going to get or whether or not I am going to keep it or not, all that is taken care of for me. Isn't that nice? Yes it isn't.

I'll be glad when our PX opens up so we can get some of the things we need such as soap and toilet articles, as well as candy. I hear that the coke concession is supposed to open tomorrow. I hope so because it has been quite a while since I last had a coke. With a candy bribe, I should be able to get some of these kids to pose for me without much trouble. I imagine it has been quite a while since these kids have had any candy because the other day Bob Neumann threw a few sticks of stale gum and a half package of Necco wafers on the floor ready to sweep them up. Some kid passing by saw him and was in there like a flash asking if he could have them. When he was told yes he just scooped them up and took off on a dead run as if he was afraid Bob would change his mind.

The symphony last night was really something. It was deep in the heart of Chinatown in a Chinese theater. It was dark when we got there and we had quite a journey through the streets. It was very sinister and reminded me very much of the Dr. Fu Manchu pictures I used to see when I was a kid. There were small holes in the wall all along the way. The buildings were like long warehouses divided into

stalls. In each of these stalls there was a Chinese family. They were very dimly lighted and in each there was a counter or showcase with a few items for sale. Out in front of each of these places there were anywhere from two to a dozen kids, never any less than two. I got a boot out of the kids. They all would shout "Hello Joe" whenever any GI's would pass, then they would laugh like the devil. They were cute. The place smelled like the back end of a Chinese restaurant. After the concert when we passed through, all the stall fronts were boarded up and it looked just like a deserted warehouse. It seemed hard to realize that there were actually people living there. I guess I covered the concert pretty thoroughly in last night's letter so I won't go into that in any more detail.

The radio show COMMAND PERFORMANCE was on the air today with The Wedding of Dick Tracy. It was the same show I had already heard at Finsch but it was very funny and I enjoyed it just as much today as I did the first time I heard it. The cast was one that it would have been almost impossible to assemble on a regular commercial program unless the company sponsoring it owned a full interest in the mint. That is one nice thing about our radio shows out here, we get better programs than you do in the States because we get all the best of the programs you have there and then get some specials just for us. We also do not have to worry about two good programs being on at the same time because there is only one station here, for GI radio entertainment. It is a good deal.

I don't think that I told you about getting my haircut the other day did I, stop me if you have heard this one, and if you can. I went over to get a haircut in the afternoon and sat down to wait my turn, there was one fellow in the chair. I had a headache and didn't feel too hot. When the barber finished with that customer I got up to get into the chair. The barber started to explain to me that he had to take a break and that if I came back in a half hour he could take care of me. I am afraid that upon hearing this I got rather burned up and sounded quite sore about the whole thing. He kept telling me that if I came back in a half hour he would take care of me. I stalked off rather irritatedly and didn't bother going back in half an hour. In fact it was the next day when I went back. The barber remembered me because he glanced at me rather apprehensively and when my turn came he asked if I had come back yesterday. He must have thought that I was one of the world's greatest grouches because he didn't seem to want to talk. I'll bet you didn't realize just how grouchy I was did you?

That limerick you sent me about the man named Blum was pretty good, you don't happen to have any others around do you? Are those some of your bridge game gems? I'm surprised at you women. Tchi, Tchi I have a couple of things that I picked up around here that I will send along to you. The first is the weekly calendar of a Negro church, the other is a news report. I just looked for them now and can't seem to find them. As soon as I do I shall send them on to you.

So Jean Subco is home again eh. Tell me was it aboy or a girl? I thought that John had gone overseas long ago but I guess I must have been mistaken. He was lucky to have stayed in the States as long as he did. On the other hand, that that just means that he will be out here that much longer in the long run. Is stchy overseas now. I don't think that you ever told me whether he was or not. I imagine he is though. Just about everyone is.

Arthur must be on his way home now because Mom said that the last few letters she wrote to him have been returned to her with his overseas address crossed out and his home address written in. I got up here just too late to see him. I wish I could have seen him though. Oh well, I'll be getting home myself one of these days. How is Tommy getting along now. Is he still on Guam. That must be an awfully large Navy base now. I should imagine that it would be a very good deal there. Has he had any more promotions yet? Give him my regards when you write to him won't you?

Bob Kennedy said that he got a letter from Bill Barnhart who is still in France in LE Mans, just where you guessed he would be. Smart girl. He speaks of taking a jaunt down to the French Riviera some of these days. What a hard life that would be to take. Bob says that things have let up on Okinawa and that he is not in the thick of the battle any more. The letter was written before the island was completely taken but I guess his division did not get into any further action after he wrote the letter. I was worried about him because the fighting was so bad there and there were so many casualties. He sends his best regards to la bella Dolores and to all the Robson family. He says that he still thinks of that venison dinner he had at the house and his mouth waters. I am glad that I do not have to worry about the food at the present time. The food here is really good. Tonight we are having pork chops. I tell you Darling, something is wrong when we get such good food and so much of it. It just isn't natural.

I t rather looks as if I shall have to leave you now Honey. I hope the day comes soon when I won't have to worry about leaving you again, ever. I love you Darling and as proof I send

All my love and kisses.

Heddie